

KERNELS OF LEARNING

Quarterly Personalized Education Newsletter

Q2 2018

Babson Farms in the Community

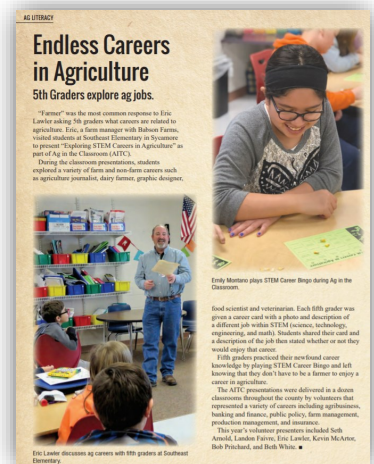
The past few newsletters have focused a lot on the importance of a family roadmap (governance) for the sustainability of a family enterprise. A large part of that roadmap is living out shared family values.

The first half of 2018 brings a lot to be proud of for Babson Farms and the family. BFI and it's employees continue to expand on the outstanding reputation they have built in North Central Illinois as experts in their field (no pun intended), conscientious stewards of the land, innovative and at the forefront of new farming technology, collaborative, and downright good people. They embody the legacy of Henry Babson and the succeeding generations that have placed great value on land and relationships.



Ag Education in Dekalb

In January, Babson Farms' very own Eric Lawler was featured in the DeKalb Farm Bureau's *Connections* magazine after visiting with 5th graders at Southeast Elementary in Sycamore, IL to present "Exploring STEM Careers in Agriculture." To read the full article pictured to the right click [here](#) and go to page 30.



Babson Farms Operator Appreciation

By Steve Glascock - Babson Farms, DeKalb, IL

On March 1, 2018, Babson Farms was pleased to recognize five farm families that have been affiliated with and worked in partnership with Babson Farms from fifty to over seventy years.

There were over 35 attendees which included two to four generations from the Barshinger, Foster, Frost, Metzger, and Reid families. All but one of the principle operators were present. The most senior member of the group was Lorenz Metzger, who just turned 95. The newest member of the attendees was Brett Metzger, Lorenz's grandson, who joined their operation within the last couple years.

It is ironic the recognition occurred on March 1st as March 1st is the traditional start of the farming lease year. To many tenant farmers this was (is) a day of change; moving from one farm to another, retirement, or starting a new endeavor. We at BFI feel fortunate to have worked with these families over the years as this has provided stability to the operations. This feeling is also shared by the operating families. Even though our lease agreements are year to year, the Farm Company has provided a sense of security with the operators so that longer term improvements can be made on both sides to the benefit of landowner and operator.

Again, it was a memorable day for all involved. There was certainly much gratitude to the Babson Family from the operators and their families. Hope you can see from the pictures that a great time was had by all.

I would personally like to thank our staff, Mary, Eric L, Eric S, Monica, and Mark, for their work in making this event happen and making the families feel welcome and appreciated. Thanks to Taylor for prompting this and Meredith for her help in reporting.





Raising Gen 5

Power of Teachable Moments

“An event or experience that presents a good opportunity for learning something about a particular aspect of life.” - Dictionary.com

Such a simple definition but we all know from our own lives how powerful these moments are when something really clicks through a real-life experience. A "teachable moment" is like creating an on-the-spot commercial to bring valuable lessons to life on topics such as integrity, finances, work ethic, life choices, and giving / philanthropy.

Discovering the three ingredients of a teachable moment gives moms, dads, aunts, uncles and grandparents a method to make a life-changing impact.

- 1) A catalyst 2) A good relationship with time for fun 3) A life lesson

In the Financial Peace Junior materials that Mary Elizabeth, Sarah, and Henry received, there is a book called *The Big Payoff - Junior Discovers Integrity*. The story is about 3 kids who find a wallet (ingredient #1). They initially take it home, divide the money up, and think about all the ways to spend it.

Junior tells his parents about his great day of finding lots of money. His parents don't get mad or lecture but simply say, "did you think about who might have lost it? I know if I had lost something I would be really glad if someone returned it" (ingredient #2).

Fast forward, the kids decide the right thing to do is return it and post a sign outside the store where they found it. The owner of the wallet calls them, meets with the kids, and thanks them. Not only does he thank them, but he also informs them he happens to be the owner of a toy store and invites them to come in and pick something out for their demonstrated integrity (ingredient #3). Doing the right thing really did pay off in this case.

Now, this is a pretty flowery example but gives us the idea. Some of the best teaching / learning opportunities present themselves everyday and can play out naturally. No lectures, no eye rolling, no "I know, I know."

In one article about teachable moments it placed importance on building up the relationship with the child by spending time with them, having fun, and modeling virtuous behavior to create the right atmosphere for them to be more receptive to adopting the values you are secretly teaching them.

Celebration Corner!

- Tim & Cho's Anniversary April 3rd
- Dave & Mary Jane's Anniversary April 25th
- Mary Jane's Birthday May 5th
- Mother's Day May 13th
- Sarah's 10th Birthday May 14th
- Mary Elizabeth's 13th Birthday May 19th
- Cho's Birthday June 4th
- Father's Day June 17th

Giving Back

Valuing relationships and showing appreciation has always been an important element of the Babson legacy.

In January, Taylor invited farm company employees and their spouses, to Denver for a few days to celebrate the accomplishments and teamwork that has continued to make BFI successful. All employees were able to attend with the exception of Steve and Roger.

The celebration kicked off with a dinner downtown and was followed up by a visit the next day to the Denver office which houses a lot of Babson artifacts / history. The celebration finished with a bang at the National Western Stock Show, joined by Libby, to watch the Pro Bull Rodeo semi-finals.



SOIL

Agronomy 101

Babson Farms Tile Drainage Case Study

By Eric Lawler - Babson Farms, DeKalb, IL



Most farms throughout northern Illinois have had some sort of random drainage installed over the past one hundred years to drain excess water from the soil for optimal crop growth. A majority of the business for HB Farm Services is still random drainage, whether that be new lines installed or replacement of existing old clay tile.

With the creation of HB Farm Services in 2013, the farm company has been able to complete some drain tile projects that had been under consideration. The Butler Farm had been identified as a leading candidate for additional drainage work. In 2015, a majority of the farm was system tiled. The following information is a comparison of production and rainfall amounts for the two years prior to 2015, and the two years after. In all of the years used in this summary, the farm was planted to corn.

Table 1 illustrates the differences in yield, pre and post additional drainage, on the Butler Farm. Yields for the farm are actual yields harvested for that farm. The Babson Farms corn yield is used as a benchmark for comparison purposes. These yields are the average of all corn yields from all corn acres on Babson Farms regardless of lease type or geography. The result has been a 14.63% change or a 29.3 bu./acre increase in production over that time period.

Year	Butler Farm Corn Yield	Babson Farms Corn Yield	Farm vs. Average	Percent +/- from Avg.
2017	221.70	212.30	9.40	4.43%
2016	234.00	215.90	18.10	8.38%
2 Year Avg.	227.85	214.10	13.75	6.41%
2015 Soybeans				
2014	157.40	190.20	-32.80	-17.25%
2013	202.70	201.10	1.60	0.80%
2 Year Avg.	180.05	195.65	-15.60	-8.22%

Table 2 shows the precipitation amounts by month for the years used in the comparison. All of the figures represent inches of rainfall. Three of the four years were above average precipitation for the growing season.

Month	2017*	2016*	2014*	2013*	DeKalb Avg.**
April	5.80	3.20	3.40	8.86	3.30
May	4.40	6.95	2.95	3.65	4.60
June	2.90	2.95	9.30	6.45	4.10
July	6.10	5.70	2.70	1.85	4.40
August	2.45	6.85	5.20	3.50	4.40
September	0.05	2.10	3.10	1.10	3.30
Total Rainfall	21.70	27.75	26.65	25.41	24.10

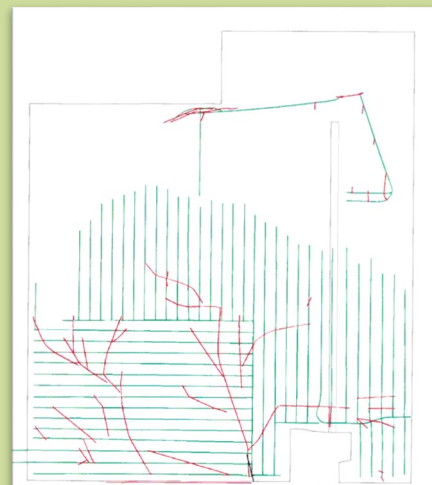
* Rainfall totals from the Babson Farms– DeKalb office location

** DeKalb average rainfall from City of DeKalb weather information



The red lines on the map below represent the old drainage system. The green lines reflect the installation of the grid system in the fall of 2015 following the harvesting of soybeans grown that year. The grid system used on the Butler Farm has a new plastic 5" tile installed on seventy-five foot spacings. These laterals drain to larger sized tile referred to as mains. There are two mains that outlet the property, one being a 10" tile and the other an 8". Due to the topography of the farm, two separate systems are employed to drain approximately 97 acres of the 136 acres that are tillable on the Butler Farm.

Butler Farm Tile 2015



Family Spotlight

Mary Elizabeth is running track this season and her primary events are the 800 meters and 4 x 400. She will be going to an Ambassadors leadership camp this July at Harvard.



Sarah is working hard at school and still in competitive cheer. She is headed to Ft. Walton Beach in April for a regional competition. She will have a role in a Mark Wahlberg movie being released in 2019 called Instant Family.

Lucky is the Atlanta Kirkpatrick's new rabbit (pictured to the left).



Henry is enjoying his new puppy and had fun in the sun during their family spring break vacation in California. This picture of him was taken at the school sock hop.

Chilly is Henry's new puppy.



JT placed 3rd in his flat class and 5th in his over fences at the College Preparatory Invitational in West Palm Beach in January.

Tim and a teammate entered the BBQ cook off at the National Western Stock Show with entries in the categories of chicken, brisket, and ribs. They used an undisclosed blend of ingredients to make an incredible proprietary sauce and maybe in a future newsletter he will share the secret recipe!



Mary Jane and Dave snuck off to New York in March to see Bruce Springsteen on Broadway.

Check It Out

Babson Memories Slideshow <https://vimeo.com/231610306>

The Babson Family Website <https://zalongo.com/group/babson>

Questions?

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History Minute



It's not every day that a piece of your family's history gets discovered but that is exactly what happened a few months ago when Becky Quist was doing some deep cleaning in Libertyville and found two watches (pictured below) under the bed.

Taylor took them in to his trusty watch repair man for fun and although monetarily they aren't worth anything, they are a priceless find that takes the family back in time.



Quote of the Quarter

